



# CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Water Distribution System Annual Maintenance Program Begins April 7** **Temporary disinfectant switch to free chlorine**

FALLS CHURCH, VA. – Falls Church City water customers may notice a slight chlorine taste and odor April 7 through May 7, 2007, when Washington Aqueduct water treatment plants temporarily switch their secondary disinfectant from chloramine (chlorine combined with ammonia) to free chlorine (chlorine in an uncombined state).

The resulting chlorine taste and odor is normal and poses no health risk. Dialysis centers, medical facilities, aquatic pet owners, and other customers who take special precautions to remove chlorine from tap water should take note of this temporary addition of chlorine.

- Customers who use a kidney dialysis machine should contact their dialysis center to make any modifications to the machine.
- Aquatic pet owners should contact pet supply stores to ensure proper use of de-chlorination chemicals.

The periodic switching of disinfectants is an industry practice typically accompanied by a water main flushing program of the entire distribution system in order to keep water mains clean and free from harmful bacteria. The City of Falls Church water utility will conduct its annual flushing program to coincide with the temporary switch to free chlorine.

The flushing process removes sediment and provides routine maintenance to more than 3,500 fire hydrants in the City's water service area. It entails opening fire hydrants and allowing them to flow freely for a short period of time. City crews will only flush water mains during the daytime.

Water customers may notice slight discoloration in the water and the presence of sediment. These conditions are not harmful and should not last long. Simply run the faucet until the water turns clear. In the unlikely event that water is discolored and remains cloudy after flushing, please contact the City of Falls Church water utility customer service division at 703-248-5071 (TTY 711).

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[www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov)

*The City of Falls Church Department of Environmental Services water system service area includes 33 square miles of service lines reaching from the City of Falls Church to sections of Fairfax, McLean, Tysons Corner, and Vienna. The water system is supplied by the Washington Aqueduct, which draws water from the Potomac River. The Washington Aqueduct also supplies water to Arlington County and the District of Columbia.*

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